

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 5, 6, and 7b. These sheets, which include Figs. 5, 6, and 7b, replace the original sheets including Figs. 5, 6, and 7b.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the previous amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 are pending. Claims 4, 7-13, 17, 20-26, 30, and 33-39 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 18, 21, 28, 31, 34, 41 and 42 are amended for clarification without introducing any new matter. Upon allowance of Claims 1, 2, 15, and 28 Applicants respectfully request that the withdrawn claims be reinstated.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Figures 5, 6a, and 7b are amended to obviate this objection. Figures 6a and 7b are designated “prior art.” Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended to obviate this objection.

The Office Action rejects Claims 5, 18, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended to obviate this rejection.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18, 19, 27-29, 31, 32, and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S.P. 5,657,187 to Hatch et al. and Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18, 19, 27-29, 31, 32, and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0001287 to Honda et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Before considering the rejections it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of the independent claims would be helpful. In this regard, independent Claim 1 is directed to a suspension. A resilient flexure supports a head slider having at least one head element to control the flying attitude of the head slider. A load beam supports the flexure at its top end section and applies a load in a direction perpendicular to a surface of a recording medium to the head slider. At least one fixing means is formed integral with a load beam and fixes the load beam to a support arm. A load generation means couples the at least one fixing means

with the load beam to generate a load. The load generation means has a first at least one leaf spring section integral with the load beam. The first at least one leaf spring section is located at a rear of the at least one fixing means relative to the resilient flexure.

Independent Claim 2 is directed to, *inter alia*, a head gimbal assembly that includes the same elements as the Claim 1 suspension.

Independent Claim 15 is directed to, *inter alia*, a head arm assembly including the same elements as the Claim 1 suspension and a high rigidity support arm is fixed to the at least one fixing means at its top end section for supporting the load beam. Also, a drive means rotationally moves the support arm in a direction parallel to the surface of the recording medium.

Independent Claim 28 is similar to independent Claim 15 but does not require the first at least one leaf spring section to be formed in a three-dimensionally bent shape as Claim 15 does.

Claim 41 is directed to, *inter alia*, a disk drive device including at least one head arm assembly as in Claim 15 while independent Claim 42 is directed to, *inter alia*, a disk drive device with at least one head arm assembly as recited by independent Claim 28.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants submit an accurate English translation (see the included statement of the translator) of application JP 2002-299217 filed October 11, 2002. The instant application claims priority from JP 2002-299217. As the now established (37 C.F.R. §1.55) foreign priority date of October 11, 2002 is prior to the June 27, 2003 filing date of Honda, Honda is not prior art under the statute. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection over Honda is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Hatch does not disclose at least the one leaf spring section located at a rear of at least one fixing means relative to the resilient flexure, as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 2, 15, 28, 41, and 42. Instead, Hatch

discloses resilient spring section 26 in front of the fixing means (adjacent element 18) relative to gimbal 14.

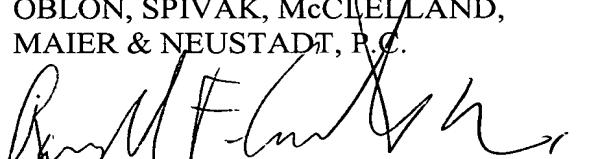
The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as to their respective base independent claims as well as for the individual features they recite that are not disclosed or suggested by Hatch.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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Docket No.: 243102US3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION: Takeshi WADA, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/671,587

GAU: 2627

FILED: September 29, 2003

EXAMINER: RENNER, Craig A.

FOR: SUSPENSION, HEAD GIMBAL ASSEMBLY, HEAD ARM ASSEMBLY WITH THE HEAD GIMBAL ASSEMBLY AND DISK DRIVE DEVICE WITH THE HEAD ARM ASSEMBLY

LETTER SUBMITTING REPLACEMENT DRAWING SHEET(S)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Alexandria, VA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the below indicated communication, the following drawing sheets are submitted herewith:

3 Replacement Drawing Sheets _____ New Drawing Sheets
(Figs. 5, 6a, and 7b)

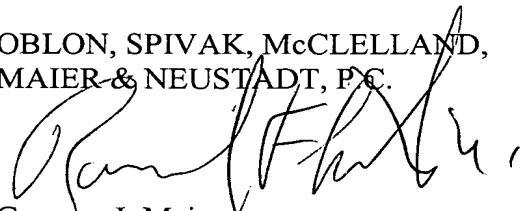
Official Action dated _____
 Notice of Allowance/Issue Fee dated _____
 Other Patent Office Communication dated January 22, 2007.

The changes and/or modifications made include the following:

Figs. 5, 6a, and 7b have been revised.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440